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## Firing Areas

U.S. military exercise areas are established in the waters S of the Florida Keys and off Guantanamo Bay.

Local Notice to Mariners are promulgated giving the limits of the area, nature of exercise, time and duration, and applicable navigational rules.

## Government

Cuba is a communist state comprised of 14 provinces.  
The capital is Havana.

## General

Cuba is an island lying about 85 miles S of Florida with the Caribbean Sea bordering its S coast and the North Atlantic Ocean bordering its N coast.

The climate is tropical, moderated by trade winds. The dry season is November to April, and the rainy season is May to October.

The terrain is mostly flat to rolling plains with rugged hills and mountains in the SE. Rivers are numerous, but unsuitable for navigation.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Cuban peso, consisting of 100 centavos.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day; Liberation Day; May 1, Labor Day; July 25-27, Revolution Day; and Oct. 10, Commemoration of Wars of Independence.

## Industries

The main industries are sugar milling and refining, petroleum refining, food and tobacco processing, textiles, chemicals, paper and wood products, metals, cement, fertilizer, consumer goods, and agricultural machinery.

## Languages

The official language is Spanish.

## Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels except Cuban warships and Cuban merchant and fishing vessels under 500 tons. There are pilot stations in every large port and small ports are serviced by pilots from the nearest larger port.

The port operations of Guantanamo Bay (19°54'N., 75°10'W.) are controlled by U.S. Naval authorities.

## Signals

Cuba has adopted the storm and hurricane signal system of the United States. Cuban port signals consist of a code of flags by day, or lights at night, to indicate the presence of approaching vessels, and for traffic control.

For Cuban port signal purposes, vessels are classified by length, as follows:

1. Long—More than 170m in length.
2. Average—130 to 170m in length.
3. Short—Less than 130m in length.

Night signals, shown from lights on a mast, are in force, as follows:

Signal	Meaning
R G R W R G	This is the position of the various lights on the mast. There are six lamps arranged vertically which combine to make the appropriate signal. The distance between the lights as seen from the vessel will vary dependent upon the signal being displayed and the lamps in use. G=Green light. R=Red light. G=Green light
G	One or more vessels approaching port.

Signal	Meaning
G G	Vessel(s) 1 or 2 miles off maneuvering to enter port with clear approach to the channel.
G R	Vessel(s) 1 or 2 miles off requested pilot. Do not enter. Wait there for pilot.
W	Pilot launch returning to station.
R R	Channel not clear.
R R R	Entry and exit prohibited for all types of vessel.
R G W	Vessel close to the entrance of the channel is to keep well clear
R R W	Works in progress in the channel, small craft may enter or leave with extreme caution.
R G G	Entry prohibited due to rough seas.
G W G	VHF out of service. communicate direct with pilots on VHF channel. 13.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ROMEO (+5).

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Interests Section is situated at USINT, Swiss Embassy, Calzada between Entre L and M, Vedado Seccion, Havana.

